

Application No. 10/591,622
Amendment Dated January 14, 2009
Reply to Office Action Dated November 14, 2008

Remarks

Claims 1-20 are pending, and are subjected to an election requirement.

Claims 4 and 6 have been re-instituted.

Claims 4, 7, 9 and 11 have been amended.

Claims 1-20 are submitted herein for review.

No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has issued a follow-up restriction requirement on the claims. Paragraph 1 of the Office Action requests that a single material, including a polymer matrix and a specific filler type be selected. Independent claim 1 as it reads includes a polymer matrix with a non-linear filler.

As per a telephone conversation with the Examiner, it was indicated that the claim 1 includes two possible non-linear fillers (100% zinc oxide and zinc oxide plus metal oxide traces). Moreover, assuming claim 1 includes a metal oxide in addition to zinc oxide, then claim 4 recites four different types of metal oxide.

In order to address these issues, Applicants hereby elect that claim 1 is intended to cover a non-linear filler that is made of zinc oxide *and at least some* metal oxide as trace. Moreover, claim 4 has been re-introduced, but the first metal oxide (lead oxide) has been selected.

Regarding the Examiner's requirements regarding doping of the zinc oxide (claims 5 and 6), Applicants hereby elect that zinc oxide is doped, thus leaving claim 5 as a pending claim.

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Regarding claim 6, noting the two options for doping agents (sulfur and boron), the Examiner has verbally withdrawn this restriction requirement, indicating that the two doping agent options are common enough so as not to warrant an indication of them being patentably distinct. As such, claim 6 has been returned to prosecution on the merits.

Regarding claims 7 and 9, Applicants note that these claims have been amended to read that the *linear filler* (claim 7) and *insulating filler* (claim 9) are, with respect to claim 1, *additional components* to the polymer matrix and non-linear filler of claim 1. To the extent necessary, Applicants select the option that these elements be present, in the event that the subject matter of these claims be added to claim 1 during prosecution.

Finally, regarding claim 11, this claim had had its dependency amended to correct a minor antecedent basis issue under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance, the earliest possible notice of which is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner feels that an interview would facilitate the prosecution of this Application she is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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